

**MERITO Program**  
**Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries**  
**Position Description**  
*Activity Guide Curriculum Developer*

**I.INTRODUCTION:**

a) Background

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce. CINMS encompasses 1,128 square nautical miles of ocean surrounding the four northern Channel Islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel) and Santa Barbara Island. The islands' remote, isolated position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates remarkable biodiversity. The mingling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the north with warm currents from the south form a dynamic transition zone that is home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to blue whales. The mission of CINMS is to conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of this unique marine region. CINMS provides protection of these resources through research and education programs that foster public understanding and stewardship of this nationally significant marine area. According to data from the 2000 US Census, the Hispanic population comprises approximately 33% of California with Southern California being home numerous communities for which Spanish (and its associated dialects) is the dominant language.

b) Objectives

The "Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans" (MERITO) program at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is expanding its education content on environmental emerging issues and resource protection strategies for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level students to use in-class and in the field. Through MERITO's sub-program 'The MERITO Academy' teachers and after school program leaders receive annual training on the use of the MERITO Academy curriculum and activity guide. The 43 lessons curriculum/activity guide is aligned to California State Standards in mathematics, science, language arts, visual, and performing arts, and English language development.

MERITO Academy at CINMS and MBNMS and their education partners are seeking a curriculum developer to create educational curriculum for module titled 'Everything is connected' for the MERITO Academy curriculum/activity guide to solidify student and teacher awareness of their personal connection to the ocean. This module will be used at both sanctuaries (CINMS and MBNMS) and will include lesson plans on 5 key topics: Climate change, marine debris, habitat loss, over fishing and by-catch, and finding solutions. Curriculum developer will revise, develop for or edit as necessary a final published version of the existing MERITO Academy curriculum modules at CINMS centered around Earth and ocean science activities while addressing key ocean related threats and mitigation measures.

**II. KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

a) Work closely with the MERITO Academy staff at CINMS and MBNMS to develop a schedule of work that includes deadlines and deliverables. Meet deadlines and produce deliverables, as scheduled.

b) Develop the module with seven lesson plans either adapted or created. The themes for the lesson plans are: 1) Climate change 2) Marine debris, 3) Habitat alteration, 4) Over-fishing and by-catch and 5) 'Finding Solutions' to demonstrate the connections of human actions and ocean related threats.

- Each lesson will consist of background information on each topic and 2 activities per lesson. The first activity must be suitable for in-class formal education, second activity suitable for extended learning programs (informal education). Grade levels will depend on specifics of the lesson plan theme and activities.
- Curriculum developer and MERITO Academy staff will work closely on the selection of lesson plans to adapt or create. Sample lessons plans for most themes have already been identified and will be provided by sanctuary staff.
- Develop the module introduction, and “learning objectives”, “materials” and “vocabulary” sections for each lesson plan included in curriculum module to reflect lesson activities.
- Identify 2 California State standards for each activity (priority to be placed on science and English language development standards).
- Coordinate copyright logistics and permission with other curricula providers in relation to MERITO Academy curriculum lessons and activities

c) Work closely with CINMS and MERITO Academy staff to develop and produce a final published version of the existing CINMS MERITO Academy curriculum centered around Earth and ocean science activities by:

- Working with education staff to identify gaps in current curriculum content topics.
- Review, edit and develop where necessary module summaries to accurately and thoroughly reflect lessons in each module
- Review and edit where needed the existing lessons to insure they include background information, learning objectives, materials, vocabulary, standards, teacher preparation, activity procedure, related careers, journal prompts and related activities in a user friendly style and tone.
- Proof correct alignment of each lesson plan to California state standards for science, language arts, mathematics, visual and performing arts and English language development
- Correlate the new and the modified lesson plans to NOAA Ocean Literacy standards and California Environmental Education Initiative principals and concepts.
- Provide feedback and updates to CINMS and MERITO Academy staff.
- Edit teacher resource pages
- Work with other curriculum guides to obtain permission to adapt/use selected activities in the MERITO Academy curriculum/activity guide.

d) If possible, attend the CINMS MERITO Academy follow up Educators workshop at UC Santa Barbara Marine Sciences Institute of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 to obtain an overview of the program and feedback on content needs by the participating educators.

### **III. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**

- Demonstrated experience with the development, implementation and evaluation of science curricula, particularly those geared towards culturally diverse audiences and aligned with California state standards.
- Academic background in science and/or education with work-related experience in curriculum development and editing.
- Knowledge of and familiarity with a broad range of marine conservation issues and their application to the Southern and Central California Coast and National Marine Sanctuaries.
- Experience working with K-12 teacher audiences.
- Outstanding written communication skills specifically for diverse audiences. Fluency in Spanish a plus.

### **IV. SCHEDULE OF DELIVERABLES (tentative)**

- Deliver first draft of new module b by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 allowing 6 weeks for the teachers participating in the current MERITO Academy program to pilot the new module and provide feedback by May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Deliver first edited draft of the complete CINMS MERITO Academy curriculum (modules already created) by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Deliver final document by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **V. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS**

The contractor will bill the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (MBSF) based upon completion of deliverables outlined in section IV or portions thereof as agreed to by the contractor and the MBSF. Benefits and insurance are not included and are the responsibility of the contractor. This is considered a project-based position. Product delivery completes the contract.

### **VI. TRAVEL AND OTHER DIRECT COSTS**

Transportation to the CINMS office in Oxnard, California for meetings with CINMS and MERITO Academy staff is the responsibility of the contractor.

### **VII. FURNISHED EQUIPMENT**

The contractor will have access to a copier, printer, fax and phone for mailings or other communication needs, but will not have an office permanent space provided.

### **VIII. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

A final product is desired by May 2008 to commence with graphic work and layout.

### **IX. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until filled**

Interested applicants please submit a cover letter, a resume and writing/curriculum sample via email to:

[Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov](mailto:Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov) Or mail to

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

3600 S. Harbor Blvd. Suite 111

Attn. Rocio Lozano-Knolwton, MERITO Academy Program Manager